

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



## PRESS RELEASE

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT AND BANGLADESH SIGN AGREEMENT TO CONSTRUCT CYCLONE SHELTERS AND BRIDGES IN THE SIDR-AFFECTED AREA**

**DHAKA, DECEMBER 14 --** The United States Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bangladesh Government to construct 24 multi-purpose cyclone shelters and four bridges in Cyclone Sidr-affected areas of Khulna and Barisal divisions. The U.S. Pacific Command is providing \$4.3 million for the construction of these important structures. In an emergency, each shelter can safely protect 1,500 people. These cyclone shelters will serve as schools when not needed for emergencies.

The United States Government remains committed to assisting the Government of Bangladesh and its people. The message of the U.S. Government to the people of Bangladesh is a simple one: We were here before the cyclone; we were here during the initial emergency relief phase; and we are here to help Bangladesh move forward. The United States Government has provided more than \$5 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since independence. Immediately after Cyclone Sidr, the United States provided \$30 million in emergency food assistance and \$ 6.5 million for non-food emergency relief activities. In 2008, the United States also is providing \$100 million in cyclone assistance for emergency relief, rehabilitation, and sustainable development in poor and vulnerable villages in the char, haor, and Cyclone Sidr-affected regions. This continuing assistance reflects the U.S. commitment to helping build a brighter tomorrow for Bangladesh's most vulnerable citizens.

=====

**GR/2008**

*Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*